

1 MR. GASKINS: Object to the form.

2 MR. CASEY: Object to the form.

3 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

4 Q (BY MR. GASKINS) Do you believe that his  
5 allegations of cheating on the promotional examination  
6 in the highway patrol touch on a matter of public  
7 concern or public interest?

8 A No.

9 Q At some point in early 2019, did the AG's  
10 office contact DPS and ask it not to proceed further  
11 with any administrative actions involving the  
12 blackmail allegation?

13 A That's my understanding.

14 Q How did you gain that understanding?

15 A Jason Holt called me and said -- I believe  
16 that Tom Helm, who's the investigator to whom the  
17 matter was assigned, for ultimately the grand jury,  
18 called him. And I'm assuming that. He didn't tell me  
19 that.

20 He just called me and said, the AG's office  
21 has asked me to request the department to halt  
22 administrative actions related to this matter until  
23 the criminal matter is concluded.

24 And we did have a fairly lengthy  
25 conversation about that. Because I said, Jason, that